

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1.-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus with a function of receiving electronic mail, comprising:

extraction means, for extracting access information contained in electronic mail that has been received, said access information including limitation of access to an object, an object ID for specifying the object, the object ID including at least some information that is not an object name and path, and access permission information for permitting a user to access the object regardless of whether or not the user is registered to access storage means in which the object is stored;

access means for accessing the object using the object ID and the access permission information under the limitation specified by the access information extracted by said extraction means; and

display means for presenting a display that corresponds to the object based upon a content of the object accessed by said access means.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said display means presents either a thumbnail display or a list display regarding objects accessed by said access means.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:
the access information includes enabling information indicating whether it is permissible to access another object present at a storage location to which the object belongs;
said access means accesses another object present at the storage location in a case in which the enabling information permits access to the other object; and
said display means presents an at-a-glance display relating to an object present at the storage location based upon results of accessing performed by said access means.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:
selection means for selecting a desired object from the at-a-glance display; and
content display means for displaying a content of an object that has been selected by said selection means.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:
the access information includes enabling information indicating whether it is permissible to access another version of the object;

said access means accesses an object that is another version of the object in a case in which the enabling information permits access to the other version; and

said display means presents an at-a-glance display inclusive of the other version of the object based upon results of accessing performed by said access means.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising:

selection means for selecting a desired object from the at-a-glance display; and

content display means for displaying a content of the object that has been selected by said selection means.

16. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said extraction means extracts the access information from a file that has been attached to electronic mail.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said extraction means extracts the access information from a main body of electronic mail.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein:
the access information includes position information for specifying a storage location at which the object is present; and

using the access information such that said access means accesses the object at

the storage location specified by the position information.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the access information includes information for logging in to the storage location.

20. (Currently Amended) An information processing system in which electronic mail is sent and received between information processing apparatuses, comprising:

generating means for generating electronic mail information, which includes access information indicating including limitation of access to an object, stored in storage means, to be accessed by a receiver of the electronic mail, an object ID for specifying the object, the object ID including at least some information that is not an object name and path, and including access permission information for permitting a user to access the object regardless of whether or not the user is registered to access said storage means in which the object is stored;

communication means for sending and receiving the electronic mail information generated by said generating means; and

access means for accessing the object using the object ID and the access permission information under the limitation specified by the access information contained in the electronic mail information received via said communication means.

21. (Original) The system according to claim 20, wherein said generating means includes:

designating means for designating a desired object to be attached to electronic

mail;

acquisition means for acquiring access information relating to the object designated by said designating means; and

mail information generating means for generating electronic mail information in which the access information acquired by said acquisition means constitutes part of the electronic mail.

22. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21, wherein said mail information generating means generates an attachment file, which includes the access information acquired by said acquisition means, and attaches the generated attachment file to electronic mail that is to be transmitted.

23. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21, wherein said mail information generating means affixes the access information, which has been acquired by said acquisition means, to a main body of electronic mail that is to be transmitted.

24. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21, wherein the access information includes information indicating a storage location of the object, which has been designated by said designating means, in said system.

25. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21, wherein said designating means has display means for presenting an

at-a-glance display, in a thumbnail or list format, of documents that are present in a specific storage area, and for displaying an icon corresponding to an electronic mail application that is for generating and transmitting electronic mail; and

wherein, when a desired document among the documents in the at-a-glance display is dropped onto the icon, the desired document is designated.

26. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21, wherein said acquisition means includes setting means for allowing a user to set access information via a prescribed user interface.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21, further comprising setting means for setting, as part of the access information, permission to access all object files in a storage area of the object that has been designated by said designating means.

29. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21, further comprising setting means for setting, as part of the access information, permission to access other versions of the object that has been designated by said designating means.

30. (Original) The system according to claim 20, wherein said communication means transmits the electronic mail information, which has been generated by

said generating means, to an information processing apparatus that has been designated.

31. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 20, wherein said access means includes:

extraction means for extracting the access information contained in electronic mail that has been received;

object access means for accessing an object based upon the access information extracted by said extraction means; and

display means for presenting a display that corresponds to the object based upon a content of the object accessed by said access means.

32. (Original) The system according to claim 31, wherein said display means presents either a thumbnail display or a list display regarding objects accessed by said access means.

33. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 31, wherein: the access information contains enabling information indicating whether it is permissible to access another object present at a storage location to which the object belongs;

said access means accesses another object present at the storage location in a case in which the enabling information permits access to the other object; and

said display means presents an at-a-glance display relating to an object present at the storage location based upon results of accessing performed by said access means.

34. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 33, further comprising:
selection means for selecting a desired object from the at-a-glance display; and
content display means for displaying a content of an object that has been selected by said selection means.

35. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 31, wherein:
the access information contains enabling information indicating whether it is permissible to access another version of the object;
said access means accesses an object that is another version of the object in a case in which the enabling information permits access to the other version; and
said display means presents an at-a-glance display inclusive of the other version of the object based upon results of accessing performed by said access means.

36. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 35, further comprising:
selection means for selecting a desired object from the at-a-glance display; and
content display means for displaying a content of the object that has been selected by said selection means.

37. (Original) The system according to claim 31, wherein said extraction means extracts the access information from a file that has been attached to electronic mail.

38. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 31, wherein said extraction means extracts the access information from a main body of electronic mail.

39. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 31, wherein:
the access information includes position information for specifying a storage location at which the object is present; and
using the access information such that said object access means accesses the object at the storage location specified by the position information.

40. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 39, wherein the access information includes information for logging in to the storage location.

41.-49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) An information processing method in an apparatus with a function of receiving electronic mail, said method comprising:

an extraction step₁ of extracting access information contained in electronic mail that has been received, said access information including limitation of access to an object, an object ID for specifying the object, the object ID including at least some information that is not an object name and path, stored in a storage unit and access permission information for permitting a user to access the object regardless of whether or not the user is registered to access the storage unit in which the object is stored;

an access step₂ of accessing the object using the object ID and the access

permission information under the limitation specified by the access information extracted [[at]] in said extraction step; and

a display step of presenting a display that corresponds to the object based upon a content of the object accessed [[at]] in said access step.

51. (Original) The method according to claim 50, wherein said display step presents either a thumbnail display or a list display regarding objects accessed at said access step.

52. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 50, wherein:
the access information includes enabling information indicating whether it is permissible to access another object present at a storage location to which the object belongs;
said access step accesses another object present at the storage location in a case in which the enabling information permits access to the other object; and
said display step presents an at-a-glance display relating to an object present at the storage location based upon results of accessing performed at said access step.

53. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 52, further comprising:
a selection step of selecting a desired object from the at-a-glance display; and
a content display step of displaying a content of an object that has been selected at said selection step.

54. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 50, wherein:

the access information includes enabling information indicating whether it is permissible to access another version of the object;

said access step accesses an object that is another version of the object in a case in which the enabling information permits access to the other version; and

said display step presents an at-a-glance display inclusive of the other version of the object based upon results of accessing performed at said access step.

55. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 54, further comprising:

a selection step of selecting a desired object from the at-a-glance display; and
a content display step of displaying a content of the object that has been selected at said selection step.

56. (Original) The method according to claim 50, wherein said extraction step extracts the access information from a file that has been attached to electronic mail.

57. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 50, wherein said extraction step extracts the access information from a main body of electronic mail.

58. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 50, wherein:
the access information includes position information for specifying a storage location at which the object is present; and
using the access information such that said access step accesses the object at

the storage location specified by the position information.

59. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 58, wherein the access information includes information for logging in to the storage location.

60. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling an information processing system in which electronic mail is sent and received between information processing apparatuses, said method comprising:

a generating step of generating electronic mail information, which includes access information indicating limitation of access to an object, stored in a storage unit, to be accessed by a receiving information processing apparatus of the electronic mail, an object ID for specifying the object, the object ID including at least some information that is not an object name and path, and including access permission information for permitting a user to access the object regardless of whether or not the user is registered to access the storage unit in which the object is stored;

a communication step of sending and receiving the electronic mail information generated at said generating step; and

an access step of accessing the object using the object ID and the access permission information based upon the access information contained in the electronic mail information received via said communication step.

61. (Original) The method according to claim 60, wherein said generating step includes:

a designating step of designating a desired object to be attached to electronic mail;

an acquisition step of acquiring access information relating to the object designated at said designating step; and

mail information generating step of generating electronic mail information in which the access information acquired at said acquisition step constitutes part of the electronic mail.

62. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 61, wherein said mail information generating step generates an attachment file, which includes the access information acquired at said acquisition step, and attaches the generated attachment file to electronic mail that is to be transmitted.

63. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 61, wherein said mail information generating step affixes the access information, which has been acquired at said acquisition step, to a main body of electronic mail that is to be transmitted.

64. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 61, wherein the access information includes information indicating a storage location of the object, which has

been designated at said designating step, in the system.

65. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 61, wherein:
said designating step includes a display step of presenting an at-a-glance display, in a thumbnail or list format, of documents that are present in a specific storage area, and of displaying an icon corresponding to an electronic mail application that is for generating and transmitting electronic mail; and

wherein, when a desired document among the documents in the at-a-glance display is dropped onto the icon, the desired document is designated.

66. (Original) The method according to claim 61, wherein said acquisition step includes a setting step of allowing a user to set access information via a prescribed user interface.

67. (Canceled)

68. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 61, further comprising a setting step of setting, as part of the access information, permission to access all object files in a storage area of the object that has been designated at said designating step.

69. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 61, further

comprising a setting step of setting, as part of the access information, permission to access other versions of the object that has been designated at said designating step.

70. (Original) The method according to claim 60, wherein said communication step transmits the electronic mail information, which has been generated at said generating step, to an information processing apparatus that has been designated.

71. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 60, wherein said access step includes:

an extraction step of extracting the access information contained in electronic mail that has been received;

an object access step of accessing an object based upon the access information extracted at said extraction step; and

a display step of presenting a display that corresponds to the object based upon a content of the object accessed at said access step.

72. (Original) The method according to claim 71, wherein said display step presents either a thumbnail display or a list display regarding objects accessed at said access step.

73. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 71, wherein:
the access information contains enabling information indicating whether it is

permissible to access another object present at a storage location to which the object belongs;

said access step accesses another object present at the storage location in a case in which the enabling information permits access to the other object; and

said display step presents an at-a-glance display relating to an object present at the storage location based upon results of accessing performed at said access step.

74. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 73, further comprising:

a selection step of selecting a desired object from the at-a-glance display; and

a content display step of displaying a content of an object that has been selected at said selection step.

75. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 71, wherein:
the access information contains enabling information indicating whether it is permissible to access another version of the object;

said access step accesses an object that is another version of the object in a case in which the enabling information permits access to the other version; and

said display step presents an at-a-glance display inclusive of the other version of the object based upon results of accessing performed at said access step.

76. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 75, further

comprising:

a selection step of selecting a desired object from the at-a-glance display; and
a content display step of displaying a content of the object that has been
selected at said selection step.

77. (Original) The method according to claim 71, wherein said extraction
step extracts the access information from a file that has been attached to electronic mail.

78. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 71, wherein
said extraction step extracts the access information from a main body of electronic mail.

79. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 71, wherein:
the access information includes position information for specifying a storage
location at which the object is present; and
using the access information such that said object access step accesses the
object at the storage location specified by the position information.

80. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 79, wherein the
access information includes information for logging in to the storage location.

81.-83. (Canceled)

84. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 21, further comprising setting means for setting whether or not to provide the access information to an unregistered user, who has not registered as a user, as a part of the access information.

85. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 84, further comprising means for giving a password to the unregistered user when said setting means has set that the unregistered user may be provided with the access information.

86. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 84, further comprising means for prohibiting the unregistered user from accessing the object when said setting means has set that the unregistered user is not to be provided with the access information.

87.-89. (Canceled)

90. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 61, further comprising a setting step of setting whether or not to provide the access information to an unregistered user, who has not registered as a user, as a part of the access information.

91. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 90, further comprising a step of giving a password to the unregistered user when said setting step has set that the unregistered user may be provided with the access information.

92. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 90, further comprising a step of prohibiting the unregistered user from accessing the object when said setting step has set that the unregistered user is not to be provided with the access information.

93. (Canceled)

94. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable memory storing a control program for causing a computer to process received mail, the control program comprising:

code of an extraction step₁ of extracting access information contained in electronic mail that has been received, the access information including limitation of access to an object, an object ID for specifying the object, the object ID including at least some information that is not an object name and path, stored in a storage unit and access permission information for permitting a user to access the object regardless of whether or not the user is registered to access the object stored in storage unit;

code of an access step₂ of accessing the object using the object ID and the access permission information under the limitation specified by the access information extracted at in said extraction step; and

code of a display step₃ of presenting a display that corresponds to the object based upon a content of the object accessed ~~at~~ in said access step.

95. (New) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein

the object ID includes version information of the object,
the access information includes version limitation information concerning a
version of the object, and
said access means controls to access the object based on the version
information and the version limitation information.

96. (New) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein
the object ID includes version information for the object,
the access information includes version limitation information concerning a
version of the object, and
said access means access another version of the object when the version
limitation information permits to access another version of the object.